

172.4 Demand on surety.

If the principal fails to file a petition for relief or fails to comply in the prescribed time with a decision to mitigate a penalty or cancel a claim for liquidated damages issued with regard to a petition for relief, Customs will make a demand for payment on surety. The surety will then have 60 days from the date of the demand to file a petition for relief.

Subpart B—Action on Petitions**§ 172.11 Petitions acted on by Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officer.**

(a) *Mitigation or cancellation authority.* Upon receipt of a petition for relief submitted pursuant to the provisions of section 618 or 623 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1618 or 19 U.S.C. 1623), or section 320 of title 46, United States Code App. (46 U.S.C. App. 320), the Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officer, notwithstanding any other law or regulation, is empowered to mitigate any penalty or cancel any claim for liquidated damages on such terms and conditions as, under law and in view of the circumstances, he or she shall deem appropriate in accordance with appropriate delegations of authority.

(b) *When violation did not occur.* Notwithstanding any other delegation of authority, the Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officer is always empowered to cancel any case without payment of a mitigated or cancellation amount when he or she definitely determines that the act or omission forming the basis of any claim of penalty or claim for liquidated damages did not occur.

§ 172.12 Petitions acted on at Customs Headquarters.

Upon receipt of a petition for relief filed pursuant to the provisions of section 618 or 623 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1618 or 19 U.S.C. 1623), or section 320 of title 46, United States Code App. (46 U.S.C. App. 320), involving fines, penalties, and claims for liquidated damages which are outside of his or her delegated authority the Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officer will refer that petition to the Chief, Penalties Branch, Office of Reg-

ulations and Rulings, Customs Headquarters, who is empowered, notwithstanding any other law or regulation, to mitigate penalties or cancel bond claims on such terms and conditions as, under law and in view of the circumstances, he or she deems appropriate.

§ 172.13 Limitations on consideration of petitions.

(a) *Cases referred for institution of legal proceedings.* No action will be taken on any petition if the civil liability has been referred to the Department of Justice for institution of legal proceedings. The petition will be forwarded to the Department of Justice.

(b) *Delinquent sureties.* No action will be taken on any petition from a principal or surety if received after the issuance to surety of a notice to show cause pursuant to the provisions of § 113.38(c)(3) of this chapter.

§ 172.14 Headquarters advice.

The advice of the Director, International Trade Compliance Division, Office of Regulations and Rulings, Customs Headquarters, may be sought in any case (except as provided in this section), without regard to delegated authority to act on a petition or offer, when a novel or complex issue concerning a ruling, policy, or procedure is presented concerning a Customs action(s) or potential Customs action(s) relating to penalties secured by bonds (including penalty-based determinations of duty except as provided in this section), claims for liquidated damages or mitigating any claim. This section does not apply to actual duty loss tenders determined by Customs pursuant to § 162.74(c) of this chapter relating to prior disclosure. The request for advice may be initiated by the bond principal, surety or any Customs officer, but must be submitted to the Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officer. The Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officer retains the authority to refuse to forward any request that fails to raise a qualifying issue and to seek legal advice from the appropriate Associate or Assistant Chief Counsel in any case.